



U.S. ARMY CHEMICAL  
MATERIALS AGENCY

# WEEKLY UPDATE

NEWPORT CHEMICAL AGENT DISPOSAL FACILITY  
NEWPORT CHEMICAL DEPOT



NECDF Chemical Disposal Operations Week Ending: July 16, 2005

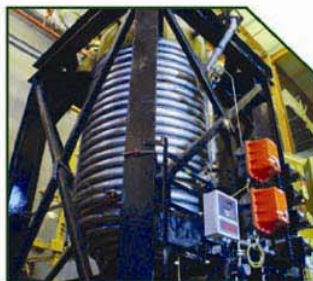
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Steel Container Transport



Chemical Agent  
Transfer System



Neutralization Reactor



Carbon Filtration Units

## Newport Milestones/Facts

### Milestone Dates

- 1962-1968: Newport manufactures all chemical agent VX for U.S. defense stockpile
- 1969: President Richard Nixon issues a unilateral decree halting production and transport of chemical weapons, including last two lots of VX produced at Newport
- 1999: Army awards systems contract to Parsons Corporation of Pasadena, Calif. to design, construct and operate NECDF
- 2000: Construction began
- 2003: Construction complete
- 2005: Agent destruction operations begin May 5, 2005

### Using neutralization technology, NECDF has safely destroyed:

Approximately 28,484 pounds of chemical agent VX  
(approximately 3,381 gallons)

Activities in past week: Review of data obtained through lessons learned activities continues. Diaphragms have been replaced in two sampling valves and two reactor feed valves. Time during recent pause in operations is being used to perform maintenance activities originally scheduled for the August timeframe. Safe Operations will resume in a slow, deliberate manner when activities are complete.

## Continuing the Legacy of Safety

The Newport team continues to build upon their legacy of safety—from chemical agent manufacture and shipment in the 1960s, to nearly 40 years of safe storage, to the start of agent destruction operations. By safely eliminating Newport's chemical agent stockpile, the workers at NECDF will remove the risk posed by continued storage of the stockpile. The United States will be safer due to the efforts of the Newport team.

- Our top priority remains the safety of the surrounding communities, site personnel and environment.
- External oversight agencies provide oversight to ensure all processes and procedures are performed in a safe manner.
- During start-up, deliberate actions and thorough review of data will be conducted to verify performance before increasing production rates.
- A plant shutdown is planned approximately 75 days after beginning agent destruction operations to conduct a thorough evaluation of systems performance.
- Processing areas are ventilated and maintained under negative pressure. Air drawn from these areas is controlled, monitored and filtered through carbon units before being released into the environment in order to meet state and federal clean air standards.
- Monitoring air within the depot is a vital part of processing chemical agent. More than 70 chemical agent monitors are placed in and around the facility, with approximately 4,000 samples taken daily.

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by appointment)

Newport stockpile  
consists of:



Liquid chemical  
agent VX housed in  
steel containers

CREATING A SAFER TOMORROW